



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes, Sept. 2010

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP

SEPTEMBER 14, 2010 MEETING

Minutes Approved 10/5/10

SPY POND COMMITTEE

Town Hall Annex, First Floor

In attendance: Brad Barber, Bill Eykamp, Jacob Friis, Joey Glushko, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Gail McCormick, Steve Ricci, Richard Smith; guest Brian Rehrig.
 Facilitator: Jacob Friis Minutes: Elizabeth Karpati

Next meetings: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, October 5, November 2, December 7.
 Town Hall Annex, First Floor Conference Room.

Elizabeth Island

Brian Rehrig of the Arlington Land Trust (ALT) reported on the pending purchase of Elizabeth Island. Owner Elaine Sacco, after two appraisals which were both very close to \$250,000, agreed to sell the island for that price. She wants the deal concluded by the end of 2010. ALT will be the buyer, with both Mass Audubon (which helped with the negotiations) and the Arlington Con Com holding conservation restrictions.

Total including closing costs will be about \$268,000. If ALT gets the hoped-for help from the state, over half of the cost will be covered, including funds from the ALT and Con Com. About \$118,000 more will have to be raised (some of it has already been pledged). The public fundraising campaign will start at Town Day, and ALT hopes to have the money in hand by the end of November.

Organized volunteers will be needed for ongoing stewardship of the island.

Town Day fireworks will not be affected: after using the island for a few years, they are now set off from a barge in the pond.

Town Day, September 25:

Spy Pond will share space with the other Vision 2020 task groups.

Vision 2020 needs volunteers for: (a) Loading equipment on Andrew Fischer's truck Friday noon; (b) set-up and take-down on Saturday; (c) staffing the booth on Saturday, 10 – 3, preferably in 2-hour shifts.

We'll display again the boards with the pictures of the "Trails Days" along the Rt. 2 path and try to recruit volunteers for the next Trails Day and the phragmites project.

Phragmites

There are two large land-based patches, at Kelwyn Manor Park and Elizabeth Island, and several scattered smaller ones. Brad Barber reported that six of the needed NOI's are done, the last two are about to come before the Con Com. Permission from National Heritage has been obtained. Spraying will be done in early October.

The Kelwyn Manor Association is contributing \$2000, which is almost enough for its park area. Owners of the small patches will be asked for \$200; a little is also left over from last year's fundraising for treating the reeds growing in water. The Con Com will pay for the wetland seed mix to be used for replanting.

Other:

Jane reported that Karsten Hartel is willing to give a talk about the fish in Spy Pond. Timing (fall vs. spring) and possible follow-up activities for kids were discussed; timing will depend on when he is available.